

have hatched on 9th or 10th March. What happened to the *Zosterops* eggs or chicks is unknown; were they removed by the female *Prodotiscus* or were they ejected by the young honeyguide? Unfortunately there was no evidence to suggest what had happened.

The fledgling honeyguide left the nest on 30th March for a few hours but remained nearby in the tree eventually returning to the nest. On 31st March the fledgling was out of the nest in the early morning attended by the *Zosterops* but by 10.30 a.m. it had disappeared. Despite searches at intervals throughout the day no trace of it or the fosterers was found; it had clearly flown some distance away. It did not return to the nest in the evening. Thus the nestling stage was around 20 days, which is about the same as that of *Zosterops*.

It is worth mentioning that Vernon (1968) records a fledged juvenile *Prodotiscus insignis* in a party of *Zosterops senegalensis* in Rhodesia. I must thank Dr. H. Friedmann for valuable comments on this note.

Finally, it should be made clear that the *Zosterops* nomenclature followed in this note is that of White (1963).

#### References:

- Friedmann, H. 1955. *The Honey-Guides*. Bulletin 208, U.S. National Museum.  
van Someren, V. G. L. 1956 Days with Birds. *Fieldiana Zool.* 38: 1-520.  
Vernon, C. J. 1968. A year's census of Marandellas, Rhodesia. *Ostrich* 39: 12-24.  
White, C. M. N. 1963. *A revised check-list of African flycatchers*, etc. Lusaka: Government Printer.

#### POSTSCRIPT

A week after the fledgling left the nest a young honeyguide was found near the nest site accompanied by a pair of *Zosterops*. These were almost certainly the nest family. The honeyguide was finding its own insect food but was also begging, with calls for food and it was fed several times by the *Zosterops*. The three birds flew into a *Trema guineensis* tree where they joined several *Z.s. kikuyuensis* and all including the honeyguide were noted to be taking the small purple *Trema* fruit. Three days later the honeyguide was again seen accompanied by the *Zosterops*.

An examination of the old nest revealed a number of small hard seeds and fruit skins, which were subsequently identified as those of *Trema*. These were pressed into the base of the nest suggesting that the fruit had been presented to the youngster which had been unable to digest the skins and seeds.

### Some Rhodesian and Mozambique records of the Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba delegorguei* Delegorgue

by M. P. Stuart Irwin and C. W. Benson

Received 11th April, 1970

Benson and Irwin (1966) discussed three females of *Columba delegorguei*, collected in August 1965 and January 1966 on the Haroni River, in the Melssetter District, Rhodesia, at 20° 02' S., 33° 01' E., 1,250 feet above sea-level, the first specimens from that territory. In the absence of males it was not found possible to determine the subspecies. Three males have since been collected by the Mashonaland branch of the Rhodesian Schools Exploration Society for the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo, in the Makurupini Forest, on the Haroni River (co-ordinates as already quoted), at 1,400-1,500 feet a.s.l., on 8th and 16th January, and 1st September, 1969. They were lent

to Benson for comparison with material in the British Museum (Natural History).

Males of the northern (Kenya and southern Sudan) *C. d. sharpei* (Salvadori) and the southern (South African) *C. d. delegorguei* are easily distinguished and are good subspecies. As Goodwin (1967) points out, reddish purple is lacking on the upperparts, which, where not iridescent or white, are entirely slaty black, particularly on the mantle and wing-coverts. Also, the iridescence on the nape is green rather than lilac, and there is generally less mauvish pink on the underparts, more especially on the abdomen. Benson and Irwin (1966) specify the Usambara Mts., in north-eastern Tanzania, and Cholo Mt., in southern Malawi, as localities where intermediates occur. The Rhodesian specimens are also intermediate. On the mantle and wing-coverts they are distinctly less reddish than in two from Zululand, in fact even than in one of three from the Usambaras. On the nape they show an admixture of green and lilac iridescence. On the underparts one is badly damaged, though the other two agree fairly well with the two from Zululand. But this does not seem particularly significant, since one each from the Usambaras and Cholo are no less mauvish pink in this region.

The Rhodesian specimens have wing-lengths 178, 179, 185 mm., thus on average a little longer than in Rhodesian females; see below, and Benson and Irwin (1966), whose figures show a tendency for females to be slightly the smaller in other areas too.

While the Haroni and Lusitu Rivers, along with the adjacent Makurupini Forest, form the boundary with Mozambique, there are still no published records from that territory, although H. D. Jackson (pers. comm. to Irwin) informed him that he and C. J. Vernon have heard it calling in tall riparian forest on the Mozambique bank of the Lusitu. An intermediate locality between this one and Cholo has recently been discovered. On 20th November, 1969 Irwin collected a female (wing 170 mm.) on the southern face of Gorongoza Mountain, 18° 30' S., 34° 03' E., at 5,000 feet a.s.l. The species proved to be common in tall forest at 4,000—5,000 feet, and a few birds were heard calling almost to the summit at 6,000 feet. A substantial population would appear therefore to exist on this isolated massif, which supports a extensive montane forest, estimated by K. L. Tinley (*in litt.*), on the basis of aerial photographs, to exceed 40 square km.

Along the eastern frontier of Rhodesia there is still no evidence that *C. delegorguei* exists except at the one locality. It might perhaps have been expected in the extensive forests on the eastern slopes of the Inyanga Highlands, particularly on Inyangani, within sight of Gorongoza, some 65 miles to the west across the Manica Platform. But Irwin, who spent over five weeks collecting in these forests in October 1966 and March 1970, found no sign of it, and is satisfied that it does not occur. The Inyanga forests, above 4,000 feet in particular, lack the great height of those on Gorongoza at corresponding altitudes, and as elsewhere for some reason may be ecologically unsuited to this pigeon of largely relict distribution.

Benson is grateful to Derek Goodwin for examining Rhodesian males with him in the British Museum. Goodwin agrees that they should be regarded as intermediate between the two subspecies.

#### References:

- Benson, C. W. and Irwin, M. P. Stuart. 1966. The Bronze-naped Pigeon, *Columba delegorguei* (Delegorgue), in Rhodesia. *Arnoldia (Rhodesia)* 2(23).  
Goodwin, D. 1967. *Pigeons and doves of the world*. London: British Museum (Natural History).